

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 304

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States citizens adopting children from the People's Republic of China.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 26, 2003

Mrs. NORTHUP submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding United States citizens adopting children from the People's Republic of China.

Whereas United States citizens adopt more children from abroad than the citizens of all other countries combined;

Whereas the number of foreign children adopted annually by United States citizens has more than doubled in the last decade from 6,472 to 20,099;

Whereas, over the previous 5 years, twenty-three thousand ninety-four children, the largest number of international adoptions in the United States are from China;

Whereas U.S. citizens are required by 8 C.F.R. 204.3(a) to obtain an I-171 approval issued by the Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs

Services (formerly Immigration and Naturalization Services) in order to seek adoption of a child from China;

Whereas the Chinese Center for Adoption Affairs, due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome epidemic, suspended the referral of orphans and travel to China to complete adoptions on May 15, 2003, and resumed said activities on June 24, 2003;

Whereas the eighteen-month approval of I-171 forms has expired or will soon expire for adoptive individuals and families during the interim period that the Chinese government ceased the issuance of authorization for travel to these U.S. citizens who had previously obtained a referral of an orphan as well as the new referral of orphans for adoption; and

Whereas the time and costs associated with the process for I-171 approval is extensive and may prove prohibitive for U.S. citizens in the final days of their adoption procedure: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives, That*

2 (a) the House of Representatives—

3 (1) commends the efforts of United States citizens seeking to provide a home for orphan children;
4 and
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6 (2) encourages the adoption of these children
7 from countries characterized by need or extreme
8 poverty and political or social instability.

9 (b) It is the Sense of the House of Representatives
10 that the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Director

1 of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services
2 should provide—

3 (1) a 60-day extension of approval for U.S. citi-
4 zens directly affected by the cessation of travel au-
5 thorization by the China Center for Adoption Af-
6 fairs; and

7 (2) immediate notification to the families af-
8 fected by this extension.

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